

AirWave 8.2.10.0



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Contacting Support

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This document provides general guidelines to follow when selecting and configuring hardware. The first part of this chapter describes two AirWave appliances, and the networking environment in which those appliances were tested and validated. The following sections lists network conditions and AirWave settings that can cause your server sizing needs to differ from the tested values, and how those settings might impact your choice of hardware.

Please keep in mind that the information presented in this document is intended as a set of guiding principles and not a guarantee of a level of performance on given hardware. If you have questions about how to provision AirWave appropriately for your network, and certainly if you intend to monitor more than 3,000 devices, contact [Technical Support](#).

Tested Hardware Platforms

The information provided in this document is based on internal testing scenarios using the hardware platforms described in [Table 1](#), below.

These hardware platforms have been tested and verified in the Aruba test networking environment, which is described in detail in ["Testing Environment Parameters" on page 5](#).

Table 1: *Tested Hardware Platforms*

Category	Pro HPE DL360 Gen9	Enterprise HPE DL360 Gen9	Central Ready HPE DL360 Gen10
Appliance Scalability			
Maximum Managed Devices	1,500	4,000	4,000
Appliance Specifications			
CPU	2.6 GHz Intel Xeon E5-2640v3	2.6 GHz Intel Xeon E5-2640v3	3.6 GHz Intel Xeon Gold 6138
Memory	48 GB	96 GB	256 GB
Storage	6 300 GB 12G SAS 15K 2.5 in SC ENT HDD	8 300 GB 12G SAS 15K 2.5 in SC ENT HDD	2 TB SSD HDD (4 TB in RAID 10)
Physical Cores	8	16	40
Passmark Score	14,057	19,892	25,774
Recommended IOPS	2,132	2,842	69,000 (random read) 28,500 (random write)

Testing Environment Parameters

The tested hardware platforms described in ["Tested Hardware Platforms" on page 5](#) support a network with the following Aruba test values. This testing information is included to give you a clear idea of the type of

environment that is recommended for these hardware platforms, and to give you an opportunity to note how your own networking environment may differ from the Aruba testing environment, as any changes from these conditions can have a significant impact hardware performance and requirements. For more information on how these differences can impact your network, see "[Conditions that Impact Hardware Sizing](#)" on page 8.

Aruba uses a PassMark (<http://www.cpubenchmark.net/>) score of AirWave appliance CPUs to compare the relative processing power between servers. These scores provide for a close comparison, although the score for a CPU model can vary over time as more users contribute benchmark values for that CPU.

To calculate the IOPS delivered by the disk subsystem, Aruba uses the calculator at <http://www.wmarrow.com/strcalc/>. The following values for that calculator most closely approximate the disk workload characteristics of the AMP.

- RAID Level: RAID 1 and 10
- Stripe size: 1024 KiB
- Number of drives: 8
- Reads %: 20%
- Read cache hit ratio: 95%
- Write cache hit ratio: 65%
- Average I/O size : 8 KiB

Test Values

Scalability is tested based on the following test values. Deviations from these values can impact overall scalability of your AirWave server.

Table 2: *Wireless Scalability Test Values*

Category	
AP Interface polling period	10
Device-to-device link period	5
CDP neighbor data polling	30
Ratio of switches/routers to access points	25%
Read ARP polling (hours)	4
Read CDP table for device discovery polling (hours)	4
Read bridge forwarding table polling (hours)	4
Interface Up/Down polling period	10
Ratio of APs to controllers	128:1
Ratio of clients to APs	5:1
Ratio of switches/routers to access points	25%
Average port density of switches/routers	36
Read ARP polling period (hours)	8
Read CDP table for device discovery polling period (hours)	8
Read bridge forwarding table polling period (hours)	8
Interface polling period (minutes)	20

Table 3: *VisualRF Scalability Test Values*

Category	
Average floor plan size (feet)	62,500
Number of access points per floor plan	20
Number of clients per floor plan	100
Number of attenuation grid cells per floor plan	2,500
Number Rogue devices per floor plan	20
AirWave Synchronization timer (minutes)	15
Rogue location timer (minutes)	30
Location calculation timer (min/max/number of samples)	90/360/3

Conditions that Impact Hardware Sizing

Accurate hardware sizing is almost as much of an art as it is a science, as it requires you to balance the needs of your users and the demands of your existing network infrastructure using a very complex set of interdependent variables. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to hardware sizing that can accurately predict the needs of any individual network.

However, as part of a best practice methodology for hardware sizing, Aruba suggests network administrators review the following list of network requirements and variables, all of which that have a significant impact on the load on AirWave, and are all factors to consider when determining hardware requirements.

- **Client Mobility:** How often are your clients roaming? This is largely a function of your environment, but more frequent client roaming increases the AirWave workload. For example, a typical corporate office has relatively low client mobility, as most people stay at their desks for extended periods of time. In contrast, at a university, thousands of students change classrooms on the hour, producing a flood of association change data for AirWave to process. Airports have yet another type of client mobility pattern, with many new, highly mobile clients. These client mobility factors impact the disk write demands and the storage requirements of the AirWave server.
- **Number Clients Per AP:** The number of clients served by AirWave has a direct and significant impact on hardware sizing requirement. As a guideline, consider that the Aruba testing environment assumes a client-to-AP ratio of 5:1. If the test networking environment was altered to support twice the clients, the server size would need to double as well.
- **Ratio of New Clients:** AirWave requires more processing resources to identify new clients than existing clients. If your AirWave server manages APs in public places like airports or retail spaces, your network will likely have a higher ratio of new clients than the testing environment, will need a server with increased processing power.
- **Wired Switch Percentage:** Switches demand more processing resources from AirWave. The 4,000 device rating for the AW-HW630-ENT appliance assumes a distribution of 20% switches and 80% APs. If your network has a higher percentage of switches, consider a server with increased CPU processing power.

- **Trap Rate:** Traps consume processing resources, and trap rates are associated with client mobility. The AW-HW630-ENT appliance was tested against a continuous rate of 100 traps/second. If your environment will trigger more traps than the test environment, consider a hardware server with a greater CPU and IOPS capacity.
- **AMON:** AMON allows AirWave to collect enhanced data from Aruba devices on certain firmware versions. An AirWave server collecting data using AMON requires more CPU and memory resources than an AirWave server using SNMP, especially if AirWave is collecting Traffic Analysis and Unified Communication and Collaboration (UCC) data. Traffic Analysis can produce a lot of data and increase the AirWave's storage requirements, but an upper bound can be configured to mitigate that problem.
- **SNMP Poll Periods:** The AW-HW630-ENT appliance is certified with default polling periods (i.e., 10 minutes for interface polling, 5 minutes for up/down polling). More aggressive or frequent AirWave polling needs a server with increased CPU and IOPS capacity to handle the increased workload.
- **RAPIDS.** The Rogue AP Intrusion Detection System (RAPIDS) is another feature that can have a major impact the AirWave server size. Identifying and processing rogue APs consumes CPU and disk resources on the AMP. If the AirWave manages an AP that detects many APs in other networks (for example, if your AP is in an open plaza or an atrium in a shopping mall) then that AP will likely identify a large amount of rogue APs, requiring increased server capacity.
- **VisualRF.** The numbers of floor plans and campuses managed and monitored by AirWave directly impacts the amount of memory used by the VisualRF feature. The AirWave server may need more memory resources to manage a complex network using VisualRF.
- **Data Retention Periods.** Long retention periods increase the bulk of data the AirWave has to manage. If your network requires longer data retention periods than the default retention settings, consider a server with a larger disk capacity than the tested devices.
- **Reports.** The type, frequency and scope of reports can have an large impact on the AirWave. The AirWave RAID controllers are configured for write-back, so they behave like an solid-state drive for writes. Reads, on the other hand, take much more processing resources. Report generation require that a lot of data is read from the disk, which slows the disk subsystem. Internal testing is focused on the steady-state of the AirWave, and does not explicitly factor in report generation and processes like nightly maintenance. Internal testing ensures the steady-state never uses 100% of the server's resources so there is extra processing available when needed. If you will be generating reports frequently, consider a server with a greater IOPS and disk capacity.
- **Instant APs.** The **Supported Devices** values in [Table 1](#) do not apply to Instant APs unless the following criteria are met.
 - **Device counts are adjusted for virtual controllers**
An Instant AP acting as a virtual controller is managed as two devices; one virtual controller, and one AP. (This is in contrast to Instant APs associated to the Instant virtual controller and standard APs, which are counted as a single device). If your network includes a large number of standalone Instant APs acting as virtual controllers, be aware that this may impact the device count. The **Supported Devices** values in [Table 1](#) assume that these devices are standard APs. If your network includes many Instant virtual controllers, your hardware requirements must take into consideration increased device count.
 - **WAN Link is High Quality**
The quality of the WAN link has a large impact on Instant networks. Poor WAN link quality increases the amount of time it takes for an Instant AP to download new firmware, causing downloads to take longer. This increases HTTP socket utilization, reducing the ability of other Instant APs to initiate their firmware downloads. Configuration updates are pushed from AirWave to Instant APs one device at a time, so if an

Instant AP on poor quality WAN link is slow to update, that AP acts as a bottleneck, slowing down the configuration push to other devices.

- **Rogue Polling and VisualRF are disabled**

A single Instant AP cannot accurately detect rogue APs or determine VisualRF location information, as these features typically require triangulation between three or more APs to accurately detect the locations of other devices on the networks. Best practices are to disable rogue polling and VisualRF in networks with just a single Instant AP per location, to reserve memory and CPU utilization resources for other processes.

Choosing Your RAID Controller

RAID 10 is the only supported RAID configuration for AirWave.



Software RAID and SATA drives are NOT SUPPORTED for any configuration of AirWave.

RAID Configuration Information

For RAID 10:

- Use a dedicated Hardware RAID controller with caching and battery backup or a non volatile (NV) cache.
- Configure the RAID controller for Write-Back caching with battery backup (unless NVcache is selected, in which case Force Write-Back without Battery backup is recommended).
- Enable individual drive caching.
- Ensure that all disks are assigned and configured to a single volume.



Improper RAID configuration can result in drastically reduced server performance. If you have any questions regarding hardware compatibility or selection, contact [Technical Support](#).

Choosing Your Hard Drives

Mixed-use SSD drives are some of the highest performance drives available today and are required for AirWave to perform properly at scales above 1,500 devices.



To ensure hardware capability, purchase server hardware that is certified to be compatible with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.2.

This section explains sizing information for CPUs, Disk partitions, and file systems, and it includes the following sections:

- "CPU Configuration " on page 11
- "Disk Partitioning" on page 11
- "Filesystem Configuration" on page 11

CPU Configuration

Ensure that Power Management is configured for **Maximum Performance**. By default, most vendors configure BIOS to an eco-friendly setting. Ensure that Memory Operating Mode is configured to **Optimizer Mode**, if available.

Disk Partitioning

AirWave automatically partitions the disk subsystem upon installation. You can override these values. [Table 4](#) below lists the default partitioning and provides guidance for more advanced scenarios.

Table 4: *Default Partitions*

Default Partitions	Size
boot	100 MB
swap	4 GB
/	Remainder of disk space

Filesystem Configuration

For AirWave, the Noop File I/O scheduler provides the best random write performance. If you are running AirWave 7.2 or later, AirWave should automatically manage this setting for you.

To check the currently assigned scheduler (if sda is not your device name, please replace with the correct device name):

```
# cat /sys/block/sda/queue/scheduler
noop anticipatory deadline [cfq] (Sample Output)
```

To configure Noop as your preferred scheduler:

```
# echo noop > /sys/block/sda/queue/scheduler
```

And confirm that your change has been applied:

```
# cat /sys/block/sda/queue/scheduler
[noop] anticipatory deadline cfq (Expected Output)
```

AirWave can run in a virtualized environment running VMware ESX(i) 6.5 and later. To ensure scalability, use a dedicated processor and memory. You must also ensure that the disk subsystem can maintain the I/O operations per second (IOPS) throughput described in ["Tested Hardware Platforms" on page 5](#).

VMware Requirements

Most virtualized environments use a shared disk subsystem assuming that each application will have bursts of I/O without a sustained high I/O throughput. AirWave requires a continuous sustained high data I/O rate. If you don't have the recommended IOPS listed in [Table 5](#), you might see performance issues.



Aruba recommends using RAID 10 in the underlying virtual machine infrastructure.

Table 5: *VMware Minimum Requirements*

Managed Devices	CPU	Cores	Memory	Storage	Passmark Score	Recommended IOPS
750	Dual Intel Xeon CPU E5-2640 v3 @ 2.60GHz or higher	8	48 GB	500 GB	9,942	2,132
1,500	Dual Intel Xeon CPU E5-2640 v3 @ 2.60GHz or higher	10	56 GB	800 GB	14,057	2,558
2,500	Dual Intel Xeon CPU E5-2640 v3 @ 2.60GHz or higher	16	96 GB	1 TB	19,892	2,842
4,000	Dual Intel Xeon CPU E5-2640 v3 @ 2.60GHz or higher	20	120 GB	1.2 TB	25,116	3,410

Master Console

Refer to [Table 6](#) for Master Console server requirements.

Table 6: *Master Console Specifications*

Environment Size	CPU Class	Clock Speed (GHz)	CPUs	Total Cores	Memory	Disk Subsystem
Small (2-3 servers)	Intel Xeon E5-2640	2.5	1	6	48GB	6 x 146 GB 15k RAID 10 (438 GB usable disk space)
Large (More than 3 servers)	Dual Intel Xeon E5-2640	2.5	2	12	80GB	8 x 146 GB 15k RAID 10 (584 GB usable disk space)

Failover Server

The Failover server should be at least as powerful as the most powerful AirWave server that it monitors to ensure smooth operation in a failover situation.